IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A substrate useful for making an endless belt in a papermaking machine application comprising:

a plurality of individual preformed layers and a polymeric coating or impregnating material or rubber material that is part of each of said individual preformed layers,

wherein each individual preformed layer is a textile layer ~~first coated/impregnated~~ coated or impregnated with resin or the rubber material, and

at least one layer of which contains a matrix of reinforcing components.

2. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 1 wherein the individual preformed layers are stacked in the form of a laminate.

3. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2 wherein a required number of individual preformed layers are stacked for a particular application of the belt in a papermaking machine.

4. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 1 wherein the individual preformed layers are comprised of woven, nonwoven or spiral wound strips of woven and nonwoven materials.

5. (Original) The substrate according to claim 4 wherein the nonwoven materials are spun bonded, wet laid, air laid, knitted, extruded, or spiral-linked.

6. (Original) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is coated on at least one outside surface with a polymeric resin material or the rubber material.

7. (Original) The substrate according to claim 6, wherein the polymeric resin material is a thermoplastic resin or thermosetting polymer.

8. (Original) The substrate according to claim 7 wherein the resin is from the group consisting of polyurethane, polypropylene, polyethylene, and silicone.

9. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein at least one individual preformed layer is comprised of yarns having a non-circular cross section.

10. (Original) The substrate according to claim 1 wherein the reinforcing components are fabricated from monofilaments, multifilaments, continuous fine filaments or spun yarns of synthetic fibers.

11. (Original) The substrate according to claim 10, wherein the filaments or fibers have profiled or multi-lobed cross sections.

12. (Original) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the substrate has grooves or blind-drilled holes.

13. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein the individual preformed layers include: a. a surface layer; b. an intermediate layer; c. a reinforced central core layer; and d. a backing layer.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of making a substrate of an endless belt to be used in papermaking applications comprising the steps of: a. coating or impregnating at least one layer of a plurality of layers of a material, at least one of which contains a reinforcing material, to form a preformed coated or impregnated layer; b. combining the coated or impregnated layers to form a structure; and c. processing the structure to form a laminate.

15. (Withdrawn) The substrate according to claim 14, wherein at least one layer is comprised of yarns having a circular cross section.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14 wherein the layers are comprised of monofilaments, multifilaments, continuous fine filaments, or staple fibers.

00585101

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16 wherein the filaments or fibers have profiled or multi-lobed cross-sections.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16 further comprising a step of creating grooves or blind-drilled holes in an outer surface of the substrate.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14 wherein the at least one layer is coated or impregnated with a polymeric resin.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein the polymeric resin is from the group consisting of polyurethane, polypropylene, polyethylene, and silicone.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein the polymeric resin is in the form of a sheet.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcing material is comprised of woven, nonwoven or spiral wound strips of woven and nonwoven materials.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein the nonwoven materials are spun bonded, wet laid, air laid, knitted, extruded, or spiral-linked.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of making a substrate of an endless belt to be used in a papermaking application comprising the steps of: a. combining preformed layers of a material containing a matrix of a prepolymer and a curing agent to form a structure; b. processing the structure to form a laminate; and c. curing the structure.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a papermaker's process belt comprising the steps of: coating or impregnating at least one layer of a plurality of layers of a preformed material with a polymer resin or rubber material, wherein at least one layer includes a reinforcing component for stability in a machine direction (MD) or a cross-machine direction (CD) of the belt; combining

00585101

the layers to form a substrate or base substrate; and forming the substrate or base substrate into an endless belt.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of coating the belt with a polymeric resin or a rubber material on at least one outside surface.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein said layers are laminated together by promoting a chemical reaction between respective layers.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein said layers are laminated together using heat and pressure.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein a respective layer is of a construction taken from the group consisting essentially of woven, or nonwoven, such as spiral-link, MD or C D yarn arrays, knitted, extruded mesh, or material strips which are ultimately spiral wound to form a substrate having a width greater than a width of the strips.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein a component in a respective layer is one of thermoplastic, thermoset, reactive materials or rubber material.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein a respective textile layer is made by one of spun bonded, wet laid and air laid processes impregnated with a polymer resin or a rubber material.

32. (Previously Presented) A papermaker's process belt comprising:
        a plurality of individual layers of preformed material that are first coated with a polymer resin or rubber material individually and then combined to form a substrate of the belt,
        wherein at least one individual layer includes a reinforcing component for stability in a machine direction (MD) or a cross-machine direction (CD) of the belt.

33. (Original) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the finally formed belt has a resin-coat or

a rubber material on at least one outside surface.

34. (Previously Presented) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the individual layers are laminated together by promoting a chemical reaction between respective layers.

35. (Previously Presented) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the individual layers are laminated together using heat and pressure.

36. (Previously Presented) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the individual layer is selected from the group consisting of woven, nonwoven, spiral-link, MD yarn array, CD yarn array, knitted, extruded mesh, and material strips which are ultimately spiral wound to form a layer having a width greater than a width of the strips.

37. (Original) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the polymer resin is one of thermoplastic, thermoset, or reactive materials.

38. (Previously Presented) The belt according to claim 32, wherein the individual layer is made by one of spun bonded, wet laid and air laid processes impregnated with resin or a rubber material.

39. (Original) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric resin material is a thermoplastic resin or thermosetting polymer.

40. (Original) The substrate according to claim 1 wherein the resin is from the group consisting of polyurethane, polypropylene, polyethylene, and silicone.

00585101